

West Kimberley. In all major characters the Western Australian material of *vivax* falls within the range of variation discussed by Mitchell (1953) for that species.

Keast (1962, p. 402, fig. 8) showed *Leiopisma (Heteropus) fuscum* as far west as North West Cape, Western Australia. To my knowledge, *fuscum* has not been collected in Australia west of Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

LITERATURE CITED

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Record of the Euro near Merredin.—Barker (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 6, 1958; 54) records the occurrence of the Euro (*Macropus robustus*) at Mokine and McMillan (*ibid.* 8, 1962: 101) reports the animal from Culham. On August 22, 1962, I saw a male Euro lying dead by the roadside about 15 miles north-east of Merredin in the Goomerin area. The identification was verified by checking the coarse reddish-brown fur and naked muzzle at close quarters. The adjacent country was scrub plain quite unlike the wandoo break-away described by Barker and McMillan.

—C. F. H. JENKINS, South Perth.

Birds Attacking Swamp Tortoise.—V. N. Serventy (*W.A. Nat.*, 7; 167) reported on Swamp Tortoises (*Chelodina oblonga*) attacking birds in water. I now record a case of birds attacking a Swamp Tortoise on land.

On October 12, 1961, a tortoise was sighted moving away from the swamp toward the river bank behind Guildford Grammar School. It was under constant attack by four Magpies (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*), the birds diving on the animal from behind trying to peek its head. It was too quick for them, however, and at each attack the head was swiftly tucked into the protection of the earapace. At no time was a frontal attack made. The tortoise eventually reached shelter in long grass and the birds dispersed.

—PETER McMILLAN, Guildford.

Fork-tailed Swift on Rottnest Island.—Ford (*W.A. Nat.*, 1957, 6: 106-107) reported the occurrence of the Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) on Rottnest Island. I made a similar sighting of these birds on Rottnest from January 1-7, 1962.

The Swifts, approximately 100 in number, were hawking over most of the island during the daytime. In the late afternoon they

would concentrate in the area of the Main Lighthouse and the Biological Research Station. In the latter spot they selected the army tower and appeared to use updraughts from the structure for soaring.

I noticed that the birds forked their tails when pulling up suddenly or in making steep turns. At all other times the tail appeared straight. The white rump was conspicuous whenever the birds turned. The weather at the time was extremely hot, with very strong easterly winds.

—PETER McMILLAN, Guildford.

Recovery of a Ringed Pacific Gull in Western Australia.—On October 29, 1961, I ringed a young Pacific Gull (*Larus pacificus*), which was able to run but not to fly, on Middle Cervantes Island. On June 12, 1962, this individual (bearing C.S.I.R.O. band no. 110-02001 and the only Pacific Gull so far banded by me) was found alive and healthy by Mr. I. Condon, Fisheries Officer, in Geraldton harbour, 120 miles north of the banding point.

From 1959 to 1962, during a survey of the coastal islands between Dongara and Lancelin, it was found that solitary pairs of Pacific Gulls occur on Favourite, Middle Essex, Middle Cervantes and Buller Islands. These four pairs of adult birds appear to be strictly sedentary, and in fact, each pair shows great tenacity to the island on which it breeds. The recovery indicates, however, that immature birds wander a considerable distance from their natal areas.

—JULIAN FORD, Attadale.

A Note on the Life History of *Metalea puncticeps* Mall (Family Calliphoridae).—While collecting at Culham, W.A., in May 1960, nests of the termite *Tumulitermes petilus* (Hill) were investigated. From the tunnels of one of these nests, situated beneath a stone, five larvae of the fly *Metalea puncticeps* were collected.

Three of the larvae were a waxy white in colour, about half an inch long and very sluggish. They were found in upper galleries near the edge of the stone, possibly at points of emergence. The other two larvae were a pale yellow and very active; they were in a gallery filled with litter on which was growing a white mould.

The five larvae were placed in an observation jar on May 26, 1960. On May 29 the three white specimens had turned to pupae and the two yellow ones had become sluggish and changed to a waxy white; on June 4 these turned to pupae. On June 30 all the specimens emerged.

Observations made on the larvae in the nest indicated that the termites accepted their presence. The termite colony, as would be expected, had been very much upset with the removal of their protecting roof. Generally under these circumstances soldiers readily attack aliens. In this case the *Metalea* larvae moved freely among the termites and no attempt at attack was made on them at any time.

The active larvae in the litter appeared to be feeding on the white mould. Examination of the gut contents (stained with Cotton